

### We Claim:

1. A system for controlling operation of a plurality of computing apparatuses in a network; each respective computing apparatus of said plurality of computing apparatuses hosting at least one respective service; the system responding to any said respective computing apparatus being inoperative by effecting a continuity operation; said continuity operation including distributing said at least one service hosted by said inoperative computing apparatus among operating said respective computing apparatuses in said network; the system comprising:
- (a) at least one control unit; said at least one control unit being substantially embodied in hardware; said at least one control unit being coupled with each said respective computing apparatus in said network; and
- (b) at least one control program; each respective control program of said at least one control program being substantially embodied in software; said at least one control program being distributed among at least one of said respective computing apparatuses in said network;
- one of said at least one control unit and said at least one control program effecting said continuity operation when a respective said computing apparatus becomes an inoperative computing apparatus.
2. A system for controlling operation of a plurality of computing apparatuses in a network as recited in Claim 1 wherein said at least one control unit effects said continuity operation when a respective said computing apparatus becomes an inoperative computing apparatus; said at least one control program backing up said at least one control unit; said at least one control program effecting said continuity operation when said at least one control unit cannot effect said continuity operation.
3. A system for controlling operation of a plurality of computing apparatuses in a network as recited in Claim 1 wherein said at least one control unit is one control unit; said one control unit being a substantially autonomous computing unit in

4 communication with said plurality of computing apparatuses; said control unit  
5 effecting said continuity operation when a respective said computing apparatus  
6 becomes an inoperative computing apparatus; said at least one control program  
7 backing up said control unit; said at least one control program effecting said  
8 continuity operation when said control unit cannot effect said continuity operation.

1 4. A system for controlling operation of a plurality of computing apparatuses in a  
2 network as recited in Claim 2 wherein said at least one control program is a plurality  
3 of control programs; each said respective computing apparatus hosting at least one  
4 respective control program of said plurality of control programs.

1 5. A system for controlling operation of a plurality of computing apparatuses in a  
2 network as recited in Claim 3 wherein said at least one control program is a plurality  
3 of control programs; each said respective computing apparatus hosting at least one  
4 respective control program of said plurality of control programs.

1 6. A system for controlling operation of a plurality of computing apparatuses in a  
2 network as recited in Claim 1 wherein one of said at least one control unit and said at  
3 least one control program effects a recovery operation when said inoperative  
4 computing apparatus becomes an operative computing apparatus; said recovery  
5 operation effecting returning said at least one control program to the respective  
6 computing apparatus from which it was distributed when effecting said continuity  
7 operation.

1 7. A system for controlling operation of a plurality of computing apparatuses in a  
2 network as recited in Claim 6 wherein said at least one control unit effects said  
3 recovery operation when said in operative computing apparatus becomes an operative  
4 computing apparatus; said at least one control program backing up said at least one  
5 control unit; said at least one control program effecting said recovery operation when  
6 said at least one control unit cannot effect said recovery operation.

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1 8. A system for controlling operation of a plurality of computing apparatuses in a  
2 network as recited in Claim 6 wherein said at least one control unit is one control  
3 unit; said one control unit being a substantially autonomous computing unit in  
4 communication with said plurality of computing apparatuses; said control unit  
5 effecting said recovery operation when said inoperative computing apparatus becomes  
6 an operative computing apparatus; said at least one control program backing up said  
7 control unit; said at least one control program effecting said recovery operation when  
8 said control unit cannot effect said recovery operation.

1 9. A system for controlling operation of a plurality of computing apparatuses in a  
2 network as recited in Claim 7 wherein said at least one control program is a plurality  
3 of control programs; each said respective computing apparatus hosting at least one  
4 respective control program of said plurality of control programs.

1 10. A system for controlling operation of a plurality of computing apparatuses in a  
2 network as recited in Claim 8 wherein said at least one control program is a plurality  
3 of control programs; each said respective computing apparatus hosting at least one  
4 respective control program of said plurality of control programs.

1 11. A system for effecting recovery of a network; said network including a plurality of  
2 computing apparatuses; each respective computing apparatus of said plurality of  
3 computing apparatuses hosting at least one respective service; the system comprising:  
4 (a) at least one control unit; said at least one control unit being substantially  
5 embodied in hardware; said at least one control unit being coupled with each said  
6 respective computing apparatus; and  
7 (b) at least one control program; each respective control program of said at least one  
8 control program being substantially embodied in software; said at least one  
9 control program being distributed among at least one of said respective computing  
10 apparatuses;

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1 15. A system for effecting recovery of a network as recited in Claim 13 wherein said at  
2 least one control program is a plurality of control programs; each said respective

3 computing apparatus hosting at least one respective control program of said plurality  
4 of control programs.

1 16. A method for effecting recovery of a network; said network including a plurality of  
2 computing apparatuses; each respective computing apparatus of said plurality of  
3 computing apparatuses hosting at least one respective service; the method comprising  
4 the steps of:

5 (a) in no particular order:

6 (1) providing at least one control unit; said at least one control unit being  
7 substantially embodied in hardware; said at least one control unit being  
8 coupled with each said respective computing apparatus; and

9 (2) providing at least one control program; each respective control program of  
10 said at least one control program being substantially embodied in software;  
11 said at least one control program being distributed among at least one of said  
12 respective computing apparatuses;

13 (b) operating the system to respond to a respective said computing apparatus  
14 becoming an inoperative computing apparatus by effecting a recovery operation;  
15 said recovery operation including the steps of:

16 (1) distributing said at least one service hosted by said inoperative computing  
17 apparatus as at least one distributed service among operating said respective  
18 computing apparatuses; and

19 (2) after said inoperative computing apparatus becomes operative, returning said  
20 at least one distributed service to said previously inoperative computing  
21 apparatus; said at least one control unit and said at least one control program  
22 cooperating to effect said recovery operation.

1 17. A method for effecting recovery of a network as recited in Claim 16 wherein said  
2 cooperating is effected by said at least one control unit effecting said recovery  
3 operation; said at least one control program backing up said at least one control unit;

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1 18. A method for effecting recovery of a network as recited in Claim 16 wherein said at  
2 least one control unit is one control unit; said one control unit being a substantially  
3 autonomous computing unit in communication with said plurality of computing  
4 apparatuses; said cooperating being effected by said one control unit effecting said  
5 recovery operation; said at least one control program backing up said one control unit;  
6 said at least one control program effecting said recovery operation when said one  
7 control unit cannot effect said recovery operation

1 19. A method for effecting recovery of a network as recited in Claim 17 wherein said at  
2 least one control program is a plurality of control programs; each said respective  
3 computing apparatus hosting at least one respective control program of said plurality  
4 of control programs.

1 20. A system for effecting recovery of a network as recited in Claim 18 wherein said at  
2 least one control program is a plurality of control programs; each said respective  
3 computing apparatus hosting at least one respective control program of said plurality  
4 of control programs.

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